

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge that Claims 10 and 12 were allowed in the above-identified Office Action, whereas claim 9 was merely objected to as depending from rejected Claim 7. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the allowability of rejected Claim 7 for the reasons given below.

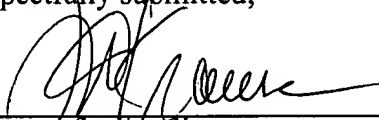
In particular, Claim 7, which was rejected as being anticipated by the cited Barnett patent, relates to a semiconductor device having a single-crystal silicon active layer used for photoelectric conversion and having a (111) plane as its surface. The novel part of Claim 7 is the requirement that "an angle formed by any arbitrary two cutting lines, contained in the surface and not coming into coincidence, is represented by an angle θ which satisfies the expression $|\cos\theta| = \frac{1}{2}$ or $3^{1/2}/2$ ". Fig. 9B of Applicants' drawings depicts such a (111) plane having three cutting lines which do not come into coincidence, and which satisfy the relationship for an angle θ between any two of such lines wherein $|\cos\theta| = \frac{1}{2}$ or $3^{1/2}/2$.

In the rejection of Claim 7, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Barnett is relied upon as having cutting lines which form a triangular base in a (111) plane, although there is no mention in Barnett of any cutting lines. Also, paragraph 2 of the Office Action points out that the triangular shape may have 60° angles which would satisfy the claimed expression for θ as set forth in Claim 7. None of the analysis as set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, however, provides any disclosure of the claimed requirement that the cutting lines do not come "into coincidence" in the surface of the (111) plane. Thus, the cited text at Column 6, lines 15-23 of Barnett contemplates a substrate having a (111) orientation wherein the crystals are polyhedrons with triangular bases. If it is supposed that cuts were made to produce the triangular shape of Barnett, such a shape necessarily precludes cutting lines which do not come "into coincidence" as required in Claim 7. That is, the cutting lines in Barnett, if they exist, must have come into coincidence in order to produce a triangle, wherefore Barnett fails to disclose Applicants' claimed invention.

For all these various reasons Applicants believe that Claim 7 is also allowable, and that Claim 9 which depends therefrom is also allowable. Because the only other claims in the application are allowed Claims 10 and 12, Applicants respectfully solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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